

**THE EVENTS
SURROUNDING**



**THE SECOND
COMING
OF CHRIST**

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OUTLINE

I. The Rapture of the Church.

- A. The Time
- B. The Transformation

II. The Judgment Seat of Christ

- A. The Time Of The Judgment
- B. The People At The Judgment
- C. The Rewards At The Judgment
 - 1. The Gain of Rewards
 - 2. The Loss of Rewards

III. The Tribulation on the Earth

- A. The Israelites
- B. The Division
- C. The Beast
 - 1. The Character of the Beast
 - 2. The Number of the Beast
- D. The False Prophet
- E. The Plagues

IV. The Second Coming of Christ

- A. The Peace at His Coming
- B. The Battle at His Coming
- C. The Beast and the False Prophet
- D. The Devil

V. The Thousand Year Reign of Christ

- A. The Results of the Millennium
- B. The Activity of the Saints
- C. The Second Rising of Satan

VI. The Judgment of the Lost

- A. The Judge
- B. The Judgment

VII. The New Heaven and the New Earth

One of the doctrines in the Bible that should be most precious to the Christian is that of the second coming of Christ. The world and its system is becoming worse each day, and it is wonderful to know that any day Jesus could come and receive us to Himself. God has dealt with man in some very special ways in the past. God, in the Old Testament, performed great miracles for His people and many times they saw the power of God move with their own eyes. The time the Lord Jesus Christ walked this earth was a very special time of history. God was performing things on earth and manifesting His power through His Son. But now God has privileged us with His Word. We have today a complete revelation from God and we accept it and live it by faith. In this present age we are walking by faith and not by sight. But again, one day God will deal with this earth in a supernatural and visible way. This will happen in the events that surround the second coming of the Lord Jesus. These events, as they happen in order, will be a process of totally changing this world as it is known today. It would profit all believers to know what God's Word says about these up-coming events. God has a schedule and when we know his program, we can be ready for future events as they unfold.

I. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

The first event on God's time table is the rapture of the church. The word rapture means to seize quickly or suddenly or to snatch away. This will be when Christ will call all saints (those who have died and those who are alive) to come and be with Him in glory. A description of this is given in the book of I Thessalonians 4:16, 17. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

This verse shows us that this is not the second coming of Christ, but this is a meeting in the air. In the second coming, Jesus will come with power and great glory and every eye shall see Him, (Revelation 1:7.) But the rapture will be a quick "snatching away" and we will be "caught up" to be with the Lord. The event that Apostle John was writing about in Revelation 1:7 is not the first phase of the coming of Christ for His church before the tribulation. Rather, John was speaking about the second phase of our Lord's return; that is, the glorious public appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ to this earth with His church, after the tribulation. So we will meet the Lord Jesus in the air before the tribulation begins.

A. The Time.

To understand the time this event occurs in God's order we must go to the book of the Revelation. This book is written in chronological order. This was the way God told John to write in Revelation 1:19. It states: "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." Dr. Lehman Strauss said, "This verse is the key to the book. It tells us that there is a past, a present, and a future in this book. This is its threefold division, and the divisions are clear." The past that John had seen was the vision of the glorified Christ in Revelation chapter one. The present was referring to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3. The church age was the present day in which John was writing. The church age began at Pentecost and will end at the rapture. So when does the rapture occur in Revelation? Looking at chapter 4:1, you will find the words, "Come up hither." John was called up into heaven to see the events of the tribulation. This pictures when the church is caught up out of the world and taken out. At this point we do not find the word, "church" mentioned again in Revelation until the tribulation has been fulfilled. We notice in the book of the Revelation that all other events, tribulation, second coming, the millennium, all happen after chapter 4:1. So it is the first future event on God's time table.

B. The Transformation.

At the time of the rapture, when all saints shall be caught up to be with the Lord, the bodies of these saints will be transformed. I Corinthians 15:51-52 says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." A person in his natural body cannot go into the presence of God. He must have a new body. That is why I Corinthians 15:50 says, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." The Jehovah's witnesses argue that Jesus did not enter into heaven in a body, for He was flesh and blood, so He is now an invisible spirit. But what they fail to realize is that this passage is referring to our human body that is corruptible (verse 52) and therefore we have a sinful blood line. In these sinful bodies we cannot stand before God. But the blood of Jesus Christ was perfect. He was virgin born and therefore He did not inherit a sin nature. Another thing the Jehovah's Witnesses fail to realize is that after Jesus was resurrected He said to His disciples in Luke 24:39, "Handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." Notice He did not say flesh, bones and blood. His blood had been shed and He entered into heaven with a perfect glorified body. How does this apply to our transformation?

I John 3:2 states, “But we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him (Jesus); for we shall see him as his is.” Our bodies will be like the body of the Lord Jesus, and can be accepted into the heavenlies.

I Thessalonians 4:16 & 17 states, the dead in Christ will rise first. The old body was buried to corrupt, but they will be raised with a new spiritual body. Then those who are alive will have a supernatural change, and will receive a new body.

This is what the apostle Paul is talking about in our scripture in I Corinthians 15:52. It states the dead will be raised incorruptible, with a body that is no more corrupt, and it says we, or those who are alive, will be changed. Philippians 3:21 says, “Who will change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body.” This will all happen in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye and we will forever be with the Lord.

II. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

The second event on God’s timetable is that of the Judgment Seat of Christ. This is a judgment that is held for believers only. There is not a general judgment for the saved and unsaved at the same time. The Great White Throne Judgment will be held at a later time for those who are not saved. But the Judgment Seat of Christ is to judge the believer’s service for the Lord. II Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in His body, according to that He hath done, whether it be good or bad.” So every believer must be tried by Christ for what he has done while he was on the earth.

A. The Time Of The Judgment.

The time of this judgment comes immediately after the rapture of the saints. We have already seen the chronological order of Revelation and that Revelation 4:1 refers to the rapture. Then in chapter 4:4 we see the saints clothed in white raiment, and they are wearing crowns. Then in 4:10 they are casting their crowns before Him that sits on the throne. This is the result after the judgment, and it is occurring after the rapture in 4:1.

There are two other scriptures which prove this time of the rewarding. One in Matthew 16:27 says, “For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.” This coming that Jesus refers to is not the second coming.

At the second coming, He will come to the earth with His saints (Jude 14.) Here, He is coming with His angels. This is, referring to the rapture, and Jesus says after this He will reward every man. Dr. Oliver Greene commented on this verse: “Jesus will come in the rapture, before the tribulation period, and will at that time call His saints up to meet Him in the air, and they will be judged.”

Luke 14:14 proclaims, “For thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” The word recompensed means, “payment in return for something given or done, as services.” So the Bible is very clear that the Judgment Seat of Christ takes place after the rapture.

B. The People At The Judgment.

The people at this judgment are those who have been saved. Many people teach there is a general judgment for the saved and the unsaved at the same time, but this is not true. We know this because of the chronological order in which the book of the Revelation was written. In chapters four and five we see One on the throne, Who is Jesus Christ, and the saved are casting their crowns at His feet. Then after the Revelation goes through one thousand and seven years, we see another judgment where people are being cast into the lake of fire. So we conclude that there are two different judgments. Dr. Oliver Green affirmed, “Only the righteous will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They will be judged according to their works.”

C. The Rewards At The Judgment.

This judgment will be for all believers, and none will be exempt. Each Christian will be judged according to his works and his service for the Lord. This judgment is described in I Corinthians 3:11-15. It states, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” These scriptures are very important because it deals with the rewards that are given at the judgment. The rewards will be in six forms: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble (verse 12.) The rewards will be tried by fire (verse 13.)

1. The Gain Of Rewards.

Those who have the gold, silver or precious stones will have a gain of rewards. These rewards are given to those who have served God faithfully and for His glory. The rewards will be put into a fire. Fire will not hurt gold, silver or precious stones, but it purifies them. So their reward will not be burned but it will be given to the Christian in the form of a crown. These crowns represent different areas of service. These crowns are:

1. The Incorruptible Crown (I Corinthians 9:25.) This is the reward for discipline of the flesh.
2. The Crown of Rejoicing (I Thessalonians 2:19.) This reward is for those who have been faithful soul winners.
3. The Crown of Righteousness (II Timothy 4:8.) Those who look for the return of Christ obtain this crown.
4. The Crown of Life (James 1:12.) This crown is given to those who will endure suffering for the Lord.
5. The Crown of Glory (I Peter 5:4.) This reward is given to faithful pastors of churches.

These crowns are not given so that Christians may wear them and glory in their rewards, but in Revelation 4:10, it says that these believers “cast their crowns before the throne.” The Lord Jesus may put these crowns on their heads at the rewarding, but soon they will only give them right back to the One who is worthy of all glory and honor, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The Loss Of Rewards.

Then there are some believers who will experience a loss of rewards. These will be those who will receive wood, hay or stubble. As the other rewards were cast into a fire, so must these also. These rewards will be burned and there will be nothing for the believer but ashes. This is what awaits those Christians who did nothing for the Lord. They will be allowed into heaven. But they only made it by the skin of their teeth, or as verse 15 says, “yet so as by fire.” I John 2:28 says, “And now, little children, abide in Him; that when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.” After the rewarding, many Christians will be totally ashamed as the Lord Jesus makes His inspection of their lives that were not lived for Him. In 2 John 8, it is written: “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

III. THE TRIBULATION ON THE EARTH.

The Great Tribulation is the third event and it begins as soon as the rapture of the church occurs. The Judgment Seat of Christ that we have just discussed is happening as soon as the Tribulation begins. While those who are born again are in heaven, those who are not born again will be left here on earth to come under the judgment of God.

This judgment will be so severe, that Jesus said in Matthew 24:21, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be.” It will be a time of blood, torment and suffering on this earth and it’s people unlike has ever been known, nor ever will be known again after the Tribulation. God will supernaturally deal with this earth and the people of the earth in such a way that man is helpless to do anything about it.

A. The Israelites.

The purpose of the Tribulation is to bring salvation back to the people of Israel. The Tribulation is called in Jeremiah 30:7, “The time of Jacob’s trouble.” Jacob was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, so sometimes the Bible will use his name to refer to the Nation of Israel, So it is the time of Jacob’s or Israel’s trouble. The judgment that Israel will experience in the Tribulation will turn them to Christ and Romans 11:26 says, “And so all Israel shall be saved.” The Tribulation period is the time that the Lord will use to bring about Israel’s restoration. Israel, realizing that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, is going to be saved. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns with His saints to establish His kingdom reign here on the earth, God’s promises to Israel will be fulfilled. The restoration of Israel will not actually occur until after the Tribulation, then they will dwell in peace in their land. But the Tribulation is used to turn them to Christ and to gather the Jews back in their land.

In this Tribulation period, not only will Israelites be saved, but Gentiles as well. Revelation 7:9 states, “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindred’s, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” This is referring to those who have been saved out of the Tribulation. It says in the same chapter, verse 14, “These are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” These were saved by the preaching of the 144,000 Jews that will be called and sealed by God (Revelation 7:4 — 8.) Dr. Harold Sighthler wrote, “The real messengers for God, the real witnesses for the Lord in the time of the great Tribulation will be the 144,000, and they are going to fan throughout all the earth into every nation, kindred, and tongue in all the world to preach the everlasting gospel in the tribulation.

B. The Division.

There will also be a division in the Tribulation period. The period will last for seven years and this will be divided in half. The first three and one half years will be different from the last. When the Antichrist comes on the scene, he will first come with the message of peace. He will sign a peace treaty with the nations (Daniel 9:27.) He will also give the Jews the privilege to begin the sacrifice back in the temple. But all this will be a false peace that will last three and one half years. I Thessalonians 5:3 says, "For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." This sudden destruction will come when the Antichrist sets himself up as the Beast. He is shown as the Beast in Revelation 13. In verse 5 it tells us: "And power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." Forty-two months is three and one half years and in this time he will reign as the Beast. This is when he will make it mandatory that all men worship him and receive a mark to buy and sell. There will be plagues in the second half much more severe than the first half. Although there is a false peace in the first half, there will still be God's judgment upon man and earth. But it will be much more severe during the last half of the Tribulation. Dr. Harold Slighter states; "The tribulation period, though seven years long, the last part, the last three and one half years is called by the Lord in Matthew 24, the Great Tribulation."

C. The Beast.

The main character of the tribulation period will be a man called the Antichrist. The Bible gives many names for him such as: The Beast (Rev. 13:4), The Man of Sin and the Son of Perdition (II Thess. 2:3), That Wicked One (II Thess. 2:8.) This man will be the greatest political dictator this world has ever known and will have an answer to the whole world's problems and he will bring peace to the earth. This is shown in Revelation 6:1-2 because this Antichrist is the rider on the white horse. Chapter six of the book of Revelation is the beginning of the tribulation, and the first day of the tribulation is when the Antichrist is released. So this is him on the white horse; the way he comes with peace. Notice: he has a bow but no arrows. This bow speaks of authority. He goes forth conquering and to conquer and he has the authority to bring an answer to the world's problems, and all the nations will follow him. Dr. Jack Van Impe gave this information: "The present quest for peace could signal the prelude for the appearance of the Antichrist. There was no land called Israel until 1948. Since she became a nation, she has been in a constant state of war. Now, for the first time in twenty—five centuries, she is considering peace. When she finally signs such contracts, the tribulation hour begins."

The Antichrist will bring peace, but it will only be for three and one half years and it will be a false peace. There will be no real peace when the Prince of Peace does not reign. Then the peace of the Antichrist will soon turn into destruction.

1. The Character Of The Beast.

Another thing that we learn from this white horse rider in Revelation is that he is trying to imitate Christ. The Lord Jesus, in Revelation chapter 19, comes on a white horse. The Antichrist comes in the same manner. II Thessalonians 2:4 says, "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." The Antichrist will show himself as the coming messiah and, because of the peace he brings, he will be accepted as the Christ.

Another characteristic he will use to appear as God is the working of miracles. Revelation 13:13 speaks of the Antichrist; "And he doeth great wonders so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men." As the Lord Jesus did miracles while he was on earth, so will the Antichrist. This power will be given to him by Satan.

II Thessalonians 2:9 says, "Whose coming is after the working of Satan." People today desire to see miracles, and this world will gladly follow after this miracle-working, Satan-controlled man. Dr. Oliver B. Greene said, "We do not have a prophet on earth today nor a miracle-working preacher who would dare advertise that he will publicly pull fire down from heaven. The Antichrist will not advertise it, he will do it; and then the masses will advertise him as God.

Since the Antichrist will show himself as God, then he will call all to fall down and worship him. Now, in the beginning of the tribulation (the first three and one half years) there will be a religious toleration and the Jews will enjoy their temple and sacrifices. But in the middle of the tribulation period he will set himself up as the beast (Revelation 13) and will sit in the very temple of the Jews (II Thessalonians 2:4.) At this time there will be no more peace and no more freedom, and all will be told, not asked, to worship the beast or die.

2. The Number Of The Beast.

At this time, when the Antichrist sets himself up as the beast, he will set up a system of buying and selling by issuing a mark for all people. This is called the mark of the beast, which is the number "666."

Revelation 13:16-17 says; “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred three score and six.”

This scripture gives us all our information that the Bible has on the mark. Notice that this mark is for all. Not one person will be able to live without this mark. Those who do not accept the mark will be killed (verse 15.) It will be stamped or engraved in a permanent way in each person’s right hand or forehead and it will be used to buy and sell. There will be no more use of cash money, but there will be a number system. This is being set up in the world today. Bank cards, charge cards and debt cards allow today’s society to buy things without the use of cash. This is done with a plastic card with a number. Cards can be used now anywhere: grocery stores, gasoline stations, department stores and restaurants. Many companies encourage their employees to have automatic deposit for their payroll checks. This allows the employee to receive their money into their bank account and never handle the cash. This whole system to decrease the world’s monetary system is forming with great speed and the motive of all this is to keep up with each person’s buying and selling. If the government can control your money, they can control you, and in the tribulation, this will be one way the Antichrist will dominate the world. Dr. Jack Van Impe commented, “This government will control human beings through computerized numbers for all people. No one knows how each of us spends our cash, but once every transaction is credited to one’s number, ‘Big Brother’ (the government) will know everything about everyone through computers.”

The system is established. The need of currency is being phased out. Soon, the number will be on its way also. A number accredited to you, is being used world-wide in businesses, banks and for computers.

Isn’t it amazing that the Bible made this call 2000 years ago. One hundred years ago we would not have been able to understand buying and selling with a number. Now, it is more common place to use a number, than to use currency. It’s on its way. This shows that God’s Word is true and what God says will happen, will definitely happen.

D. The False Prophet.

One of the help-meets of the Antichrist will be a man called the “False Prophet.” In Revelation 13, we have already noticed the Beast. But in verse 11, we see “another beast.” Then in verse 12, he is described: “And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast.”

Notice we have two beasts in the chapter. The first beast is the Antichrist, and he is the man of political power. The second beast is the false prophet, and he is the man of religious power. His job is to cause all to worship the first beast. This false prophet will also be the leader of a one-world church. This church is described in Revelation chapter 17. Because of the description given in the seventeenth chapter, it is possible that the false prophet could be the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Many of the verses line up with the history of that church.

Verse 6 says, “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” This is exactly what happened in the Inquisition, when the Roman Catholic Church killed many Christians, calling them heretics.

Verse 9 describes the location: “The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” This woman (the church) is said to have seven heads (verse 3.) The heads are mountains or hills. Rome, where the Vatican city of the Catholic Church is located, sits upon seven hills.

The Pope today (unlike the Pope’s of the past), is trying to draw all religions together. This is the beginning of the forming of the one-world church. But during the reign of the Beast, instead of the Pope asking for worship of God or himself, in the tribulation period he will turn this worship toward the man of sin, the Antichrist.

This form of godliness, the one-world church, is brought about by the lack of emphasizing doctrine or beliefs. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. This is a description of the Beast. Verse 3 says; “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there be a FALLING AWAY FIRST, and that man if sin be revealed, the son of perdition.” The term “falling away” is from the Greek word “apostasia” from which we get our English word apostasy. This means a falling away from the truth. Paul states it like this to Timothy: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine”. 2 Tim. 4:3.

I have seen in my lifetime, this in the making. The big, so-called mega churches are the ones that are non-denominational or inter-denominational. The emphasis of doctrine and knowing what you believe is not there. What is stressed today is to live in harmony, no matter of your beliefs. The influx of new versions, have done nothing but add confusion and mistrust of God’s Word, and the result are people who know less about the bible and do not know what they believe. Not only that, but these people could care less about learning doctrine. They cannot prove what they believe and do not care to learn. What little they do know is derived from what someone has told them. What a perfect setting for the Antichrist and the False Prophet to come in and take over. This is the “falling away” of the truth. This is 2 Timothy 2:3 fulfilled. If you are in this category, get ready for your mark.

E. The Plagues.

Then one of the prominent things in the tribulation is the plagues that will be upon the earth and the people. The judgments are in three different forms: seal, trumpet and vial judgments; and each one has seven different plagues. These are:

The Seal Judgments:

1. The World's Greatest Dictator (Revelation 6:1-2.) This is the first appearance of the Antichrist.
2. The World's Greatest War (Revelation 6:3-4.) This is brought by the rider of the red horse.
3. The World's Greatest Famine (Revelation 6:5-6.) Hunger will be terrible in the tribulation hour.
4. The World's Greatest Death Blow (Revelation 6:7-8.) A fourth part of the earth is killed.
5. The World's Greatest Persecution (Revelation 6:9-10.) This is the persecution of those slain for God's Word.
6. The World's Greatest Ecological Disaster (Revelation 6:11-12.) This affects the earth and space. The sun is darkened and the stars fall.
7. The Silence in Heaven (Revelation 8:1.) This is the silence that comes before the next judgments.

The Trumpet Judgments:

1. The World's Greatest Fire (Revelation 8:7.) Fire and blood are cast to the earth.
2. The World's Greatest Ocean Disturbance (Revelation 8:8-9.) Fire is cast into the sea.
3. The World's Greatest Pollution of Water (Revelation 8:10-11.) A star falls from heaven and makes a third part of the rivers and fountains bitter.
4. The World's Greatest Darkness (Revelation 8:12.) The Sun, Moon and Stars are darkened.
5. The World's Greatest Pestilence (Revelation 9:1-6.) This is an invasion of locusts that have power to kill.
6. The World's Greatest Army (Revelation 9:16.) This is an army of horsemen that kills the third part of men.
7. The World's Greatest Storm (Revelation 11:15-19.) It consists of lightnings, thundering, an earthquake and great hail.

The Vial Judgments:

1. The World's Greatest Sore (Revelation 16:2.) This is given on the mark of the beast.
2. The Sea Turns to Blood (Revelation 16:3.) Every living soul in the sea dies.
3. The Rivers Turn to Blood (Revelation 16:4-7.)
4. The World's Greatest Scorching (Revelation 16:8-9.) Now, instead of being darkened, the sun gives a great heat.
5. The World's Greatest Plague (Revelation 16:10-11.) Men gnaw their tongues because of their hunger pain.
6. The Drying Up of the Euphrates River (Revelation 16:12.) This is dried up to make a pathway for an army.
7. The World's Greatest Earthquake (Revelation 16:17-21.)

God's judgment is more severe in the tribulation than it ever has been in history. But it will all be used to turn Israel back to God.

IV. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

Then at the end of the tribulation, comes the event that will end all confusion and evil. That is the second coming of Christ. He will come to earth and bring peace. The doctrine of the second coming is just as true and sure as any other doctrine in the Bible. Jesus said in John 14:3, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also." In the book of Acts, when Jesus was taken up into heaven, there appeared two men which proclaimed, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven", (Acts 1:11.) These two verses are only a small portion of hundreds which prove that Jesus will come again.

A. The Peace At His Coming.

When Jesus Christ comes, He will bring peace to the earth. Psalm 46:9 gives this prophecy; "He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot with fire." After Jesus comes there will be a peace on this earth that it has not known since the Garden of Eden. But to bring this peace, there must be a battle.

B. The Battle At His Coming.

In Revelation 19:11-16, Jesus comes to earth, in His second coming, riding a white horse. With Him are all the saints of heaven. The Bible states, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called faithful and true, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.", (verse 11.) This is the Lord Jesus Christ. Then in verse 14, we see the saints; "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." This heavenly army comes with the Lord Jesus Christ to put away all the evil and corruption that is on the earth from the tribulation period. This battle is called in the Bible, the Battle of Armageddon. Armageddon is a Hebrew name for the place where this battle will occur (Rev. 16:26.) This army on earth is gathered by the beast and the false prophet and is made up with men from all the nations of the whole world (Rev. 16:14.) This is the world's greatest and largest army. But notice how easily the world's army is defeated by the Lord. Revelation 19:15 says, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations. Then in chapter 19:21, it states, "And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." Amen! All the evil that has covered every nation is stamped out by the word of His mouth.

C. The Beast and the False Prophet.

Then in verse 20, the beast and the false prophet receive their doom. The two men that have been the leaders of all the iniquity in the tribulation are cast, alive, into the lake of fire.

D. The Devil.

Also in Revelation 20:2-3, the devil is cast into the bottomless pit. Hallelujah! The old serpent who has been responsible for all evil throughout all ages is cast into the pit and shut up. The devil has been the god of this world until the coming of the Lord Jesus. Now the Lord Jesus shall rule this world and the saints of God can rule, reign and worship Him freely with no sin because Satan is bound and sealed in the bottomless pit.

V. THE THOUSAND YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST.

Now that all evil has been put away and the Lord Jesus has brought peace, there will be the period of time called the Millennium. The word "Millennium" comes from two latin words which mean "one thousand years." This will be the kingdom age with the Lord Jesus ruling and reigning on the throne of David.

The Bible speaks of this in Revelation 20:4; “And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

A. The Results Of The Millennium.

There are many things that will be accomplished during this kingdom:

1. Righteousness will finally be established upon the earth. Sin has been put away by the binding of Satan and the Lord Jesus is ruling, which brings a reign of righteousness.
2. There will be knowledge of God throughout the whole earth. Isaiah 11:9 says, “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.”
3. There will be prosperity of the earth. “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” Isaiah 35:1. The earth has been under a curse since the fall of Adam, but during the Millennium the curse will be lifted.
4. There will be longevity of life. “There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days,” Isaiah 65:20. There will be many people from the tribulation, that will enter into the Millennium with natural bodies. They will not die, but have eternal life.

B. The Activity Of The Saints.

What will the saints do in the Millennium? There is much given to some of the saints and some will have nothing to do. The Bible said in Revelation 20:4, that we “lived and rejoiced with Christ.” This illustration is given in Luke 19 in the parable of the ten pounds. The servants in the parable represent the saints. The pounds represent our service. Each person was given one pound. We all have the same opportunity of service. Some of these servants used their pound and gained more. But one came with no gain, just his one pound. This is a picture of one who is saved, but did not do anything for God. Those who had gained were allowed to rule over cities. Those that had not gained were left with nothing. This is a picture of the millennial kingdom. Those who served God will be allowed to rule and reign with Him. But those who did not serve God, they are left with nothing. So during the millennial reign of Christ, some will be ruling and reigning with the Lord, and some will do nothing. One day, when the saints see the Lord Jesus Christ, and all the temporal things of this world are gone, the one thing that will be our desire is to serve and please Him. But some, because they have wasted their lives here, will not have the opportunity to serve Him for one thousand years.

C. The Second Rising Of Satan.

Then at the end of the Millennium, Satan is loosed again. This is spoken of in Revelation 20:7: “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.” When Satan is loosed, he gathers an army which the Bible says is as the sand of the sea.

The question immediately comes up: where does Satan get this army? If all people have been in heaven and hell for one thousand years, where does this army come from? I quote Dr. Jack Van Impe on this matter: “The saints who return with Jesus will have their new glorified bodies. Those who survived the Tribulation hour, and who have not been condemned in the judgment of the nations, are allowed to enter into the Millennium in their mortal bodies. Since they are in mortal bodies and are able to procreate, many babies will be born during the thousand year period. They, of course, will also have mortal bodies.” These that are born in the Millennium are those who make up the army. Not all that are born during this will follow Satan, but most will. This is their time when they must choose whether to stay with Christ, or to follow Satan. Just as all men, throughout all ages have had to make a choice, so will these people who are born during the kingdom age.

Then as soon as Satan and his army rise to view the earth and to set themselves in array for battle, Revelation 20:9 says, “And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Then Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire to be tormented, not for just one thousand years, but now, forever and ever.

VI. THE JUDGMENT OF THE LOST.

Next, after the Millennium, comes the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15.) As has already been stated, this is not a judgment for the saved but the unsaved. The saved have already been judged before the Millennium. This is a judgment for the those who have never received Jesus Christ as their Savior.

A. The Judge.

The Judge on this throne is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 6:22, “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.” Christ is the One Who judged the Christians, and is the One Who will judge the unsaved as well.

B. The Judgment.

The question is often asked: if the unsaved people are already doomed to hell, then why a judgment? Notice that Revelation 20:13 says, “And they were judged every man according to their works.”

Dr. John R. Rice stated, “People will get different penalties, and a different amount of punishment, and a different status in hell, depending on their works.” When poor lost folks are cast into the lake of fire, not all will be the same. Those who lived a wicked life will suffer more than a moral soul who dies lost, although both will suffer. People who have rejected Christianity time and time again, will suffer more than the one who rejected Him once or twice.

At this judgment, all will be made manifest. God has a record of every sin a lost man or woman has committed. These sins could have been washed away by the blood of Christ, but He was rejected. The price they will pay is eternity in the lake of fire.

VII. THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH.

The final change that will take place is the new heaven and new earth. Revelation 21:1 states; “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.” The earth, as we know it now, will be changed by fire. II Peter 3:10 describes this: “in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.’ This is a purification process that will occur to bring a new heaven and earth. The earth has had the curse of sin upon it and it has been affected by sin. But this fire will purify it.

There will be a new city which is called the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:9—21.) It will be a city with jeweled walls and golden streets. This city is for all saints to enjoy.

This state now is what is called “Eternity.” There is no more need for time. Time will continue, but it will not be marked off in minutes, seconds, hours, days or months. God has prepared now a beautiful dwelling place for His people, and we shall be with Him forever.

Dear friend, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior, I urge you to make this decision today. All of the terrible events listed in this study are what awaits you. This decision must be made before these events unfold. Jesus died on the cross, and shed his blood to pay the penalty for your sins, so that you will have a home in heaven and not come under the judgment of God Almighty.

Here is what the bible, God's Holy Word says about being saved:

Salvation is in Jesus and in Him alone. John 14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, BUT BY ME".

You must realize you are a sinner. Your sin separates you from God.

Romans 3:23

"For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

How to be saved. Romans 10:9

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

If you are not a Born Again Christian, pray, confess your sins to God and ask Jesus, who is alive and seated at the right hand of the Father, to come into your heart and save you.

If you have received Jesus as your Saviour as a result of reading the above plan of salvation, please send me an email and let me know.

<http://sites.google.com/site/bennymaynardbibleministries/home>

END NOTES

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4. Harold B. Sightler, *Revelation* (Greenville, South Carolina: Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1982) page 194.
5. Ibid: page 141.
6. Jack Van Impe, *Your Startling Future* (Royal Oak, Michigan. Jack Van Impe Crusades, 1979) page 5.
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10. Jack Van Impe, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Prophecy* (Royal Oak, Michigan. Jack Van Impe Crusades, 1980) page 53.
- 11 John R. Rice, *Judgement is Coming* (Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Sword of the Lord Publishers, 1976) page 15.

